

THE CARP.

Wednesday, September 20, 1893

Carp Culture.

By Capt. Milton P. Peirce, Wenonah, New Jersey.

The adaptability of carp to artificially constructed ponds in any part of the country, their wonderful hardiness, prodigious fecundity, and astonishing growth, combined with the excellent flavor of their flesh, render them the most desirable acquisition to our food supply which has been developed in modern times. While the food carp will thrive in lakes, large ponds, open streams, and even in salt-water estuaries, it is not disturbed by predatory fish, it is obviously impracticable for the present to introduce them into such waters, because a large portion of them would fall a prey to predatory fish, and even if they escaped all such enemies they could not be readily secured at all times when wanted. Their culture, then, should be confined to purely artificial ponds prepared expressly for them. At least three ponds are required in order to attain the best results, viz: a breeding pond, a nursery pond, and a stock pond. The breeding pond should be small and shallow; the nursery pond two or three times larger, and portions of it considerably deeper; and the stock pond, which is the largest, should be deep and stocked with carp, say three years, then drained and devoted to agriculture for two years. Their culture has been carried on extensively in Germany for a hundred years past and with the most satisfactory results.

With proper preparation, one ton of carp can be raised per acre of water, and this without feeding and with but slight attention.

Ponds for carp must have muddy bottoms. If they are not naturally so, a few inches of loamy earth should be introduced. They should be so constructed that all the water can be readily drawn off. The ponds must be constructed over the bed of a stream unless at or very near the source. There must be no risk of any kind of water entering, not even from a ditch or brook. Ponds constructed over the beds of streams will be sure to contain other fish which cannot all be driven out. Such ponds are also liable to overflow during storms, and require the fish thereby lost.

Carp ponds require but a small supply of water, barely enough to keep them at a uniform level. They can be supplied by springs, underdrains, or by leading water from streams or ponds through screened trunks or pipes and ditches. If the water becomes quite warm, all the better, as such water will supply more food. Carp are naturally vegetable feeders, but will not refuse worms, larvae and other animal substances. They spawn in spring and summer and attach their eggs to living plants, *Myrica* being the best for catching and retaining the spawn, and will rise the best for food. The various water lilies and grasses, *carex*, etc., are all valuable.

Satisfactory results must not be expected from ponds constructed in ravines and shaded places. Successful carp culture can be obtained with far less trouble and expense than poultry culture, but with comparative ease. After the ponds have been properly prepared and the fish introduced, about all the attention required will be to draw off the water twice each week in early spring and again late in the fall, to expel intruders, assort the fish, etc.

It is surprising how many intelligent people seem to think that all that is required in fish culture is to throw a dam across a ravine, dig a hole in wet ground, or in any rude manner construct a pond so as to contain a small body of water, and then introduce a few fish. They then expect after a brief interval to reap a perpetual harvest. This is a very common error, and the understanding that the subject shall be continued in future numbers of this journal.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Celery salt added to the dressing for potato and other salads, gives an agreeable flavor; it is preferred by many cooks to celery extract for soups also.

If dry beans are soaked all night in soft water, they will be found to be much more tender than if soaked in hard water; they will require less time for boiling, though they should be boiled in hard water.

Stains of oil paint may be removed with bluish oil of carbinol; many by means of spirits of turpentine; if dry and old, with chloroform. For these last, as for tar spots, the best way is to cover the stain with olive oil or butter. When the paint is softened the whole may be removed by treatment, first, with spirits of turpentine and then with benzine.

Many persons are not aware that glass can be cut under water with great ease to almost any shape by simply using a pair of scissors. In order to insure success, the glass must be kept quite level in the water while the scissors are applied; and, secondly, to avoid risk, it is better to begin cutting by taking off small pieces at the corners and along the edges, and so reduce the shape gradually to that required. When the operation goes on well the glass breaks away from the surface in small pieces, and is a straight line with the blades. The two hinges given above, if strictly followed, will always insure success.

Fruit-Tree Culture.

The Canadian Farmer gives the following points in reference to fruit-tree culture.

1. Instead of "trimming up" trees, according to the old fashion, to make them long and lank, trim them down so as to make them even, snug and symmetrical.

2. Instead of manuring heavily in a small circle at the foot of the tree, spread the manure, if needed at all, broadcast over the whole surface, especially where the ends of the roots can get it.

3. Instead of spading a small circle about the stem, cultivate the whole surface around the tree.

4. Prefer a well-purified, clean surface in an orchard with a moderately rich soil, to heavy manuring and a surface covered with a hard crust and weeds and grass.

5. Remember that it is better to set out ten trees and have them all die from carelessness, than to set out one tree and have it live and bear.

6. Remember that tobacco is a poison, and will kill insects rapidly if properly applied to them, and is one of the best drugs for treating fruit trees rapidly of any kind, and is better used in this way than to make men repulsive and diseased.

Sulphur for Animals.

Sulphur is an excellent alterative and antiseptic medicine, and is especially required in its use. Its effects are to increase the perspiration. This renders the skin exceedingly sensitive to cold and wet, and exposure to these suddenly checks the perspiration, which may cause serious mischief. When sulphur is given it is therefore required to keep the animal dry and warm, or at least to avoid a sudden change of temperature. This medicine should be given in moderate doses—such as one dram for a calf or sheep, and one ounce for a cow or horse daily, or every two days for several days.

The insensible perspiration carries off much unwholesome matter through the skin. Hygiene of the skin is a much more desirable medicine than sulphur, and is used in one ounce doses, repeated for several days in those cases in which there are purulent secretions and blood poisoning.

Early, and the two Drovers and their followers and confederates are to be tried again, probably in October next, and before that time the public will be made acquainted with this case, and the public will be made acquainted with this case, and the public will be made acquainted with this case.

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